

MINUTES OF
WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF NOVEMBER 5, 2001

Attendees: Toni Bertolero, City of Cotati
Al Bandur, City of Sonoma
Jake Mackenzie, City of Rohnert Park
Joe Gaffney, City of Rohnert Park
Chris DeGabriele, North Marin Water District
John Olaf Nelson, Water Resources Management
Mike Martini, City of Santa Rosa
Virginia Porter, City of Santa Rosa
Dave Pinsky, City of Santa Rosa
Randy Poole, Sonoma County Water Agency
Krishna Kumar, Sonoma County Water Agency
Pam Jeane, Sonoma County Water Agency
Tom Hargis, City of Petaluma
Steve Simmons, City of Petaluma
Mike Ban, City of Petaluma
Pam Torliatt, City of Petaluma
Lee Harry, Valley of the Moon Water District
Dave Willard, Valley of the Moon Water District
Steve Phelps, Marin Municipal Water District
Ron Theisen, Marin Municipal Water District
Jack Gibson, Marin Municipal Water District
Pam Nicolai, Marin Municipal Water District
George Roberts, Forestville Water District
Matt Mullan, Town of Windsor

Public Attendees: Jim Downey, Pennngrove Water Co
Don McEnhill, League of Women Voters-Marin
David Keller, Friends of the Eel River

A. Call to Order

Virginia Porter, City of Santa Rosa, called the meeting to order at 9:10am.

B. Introductions

The attendees made introductions.

C. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

D. L/R/T2 Update

Chris DeGabriele, North Marin Water District, passed out a memorandum detailing the last meeting of the subcommittee. The subcommittee met to review the subject Guidelines and Project Evaluation Criteria, and they recommend to fund the program at a level of \$13 million (M) over a ten year period, with the SCWA funding up to \$2M a year. Randy Poole, SCWA, recommended that the WAC approve at least \$20M for the program to develop projects and reduce the demand on the system, as more water will be needed in the near future. Mike Martini, City of Santa Rosa, asked what the rate difference would be between the 13 and 20M, and Mr. Poole said that the \$20M project could raise rates 6-7%.

Dave Pinsky, City of Santa Rosa, said that in 1999, a 4% rate increase was initiated for recycled water projects, and he questioned where the money from that rate increase has gone. Mr. DeGabriele said that funds aren't being accumulated; the money is not collected year to year. Mr. DeGabriele stated his justification for the \$13M plan is that the program was funded at \$1.3M in past O & M budgets, and \$1.3M over 10 years is \$13M. A rate increase was not wanted.

Matt Mullan, Town of Windsor, said that Windsor has a \$1.4M project meeting all the criteria; however, based on the \$13M model, they would only get \$86,000 over ten years. That amount would be insufficient to fund the project. He asked that projects meeting the criteria be given priority.

John Nelson, Water Resources Management, said that debt financing was commented on in the workshops as a way of spreading costs between existing and future users more efficiently. He said that he believes there was strong support from the workshop participants for spending on conservation and recycled water projects and \$20-40M would better help these projects along.

Mr. DeGabriele mentioned that debt financing is not possible under the current agreement. Toni Bertolero, City of Cotati, asked if the \$13M goes into the O & M fund, is it approved or set aside to be approved? Mr. Poole answered that the money is set aside, and then if there is a build up of monies, the extra goes to fund other projects. Ms. Bertolero then asked what would happen if there would no projects for the first few years, allowing the fund to build up a reserve. Would all projects then be approved because there would be enough money built up to fund them? Mr. Poole said that the money would be used up yearly, based on the provisions of the Master Agreement. He stressed that to keep separate accounts for water conservation and recycled water projects, it would be necessary to amend the Master Water Agreement.

Ron Thsisen, MMWD, said that the \$2M per year budgeted for the L/R/T2 will be subject to catastrophic need, such as the increase in electricity fees. He asked if the subcommittee would continue to be involved in the L/R/T2 process. Mr. DeGabriele said that the subcommittee would recommend proposed projects to the WAC for approval.

David Keller, Friends of the Eel River, said that it was the responsibility of the WAC to make sure that the money that is set aside for projects is used for said projects. He said that it was the WAC's responsibility to rate payers to have an explicit understanding of where the money goes, comes from and how it is budgeted.

Mr. Nelson said that the WAC has authority to raise money above the budget for these types of projects because of the MOU Pam Torliatt, City of Petaluma, asked if the WAC was required to put the aforementioned 4% into the L/R/T2 fund, and Mr. Nelson answered that the WAC is required to have enough money available for the O & M fund and prudent reserve. Ms. Torliatt suggested that WAC make a separate account for these projects. Mr. Nelson said amounts can be set aside for conservation and recycled water projects but the existing agreement provides that if a catastrophic event comes and drains money, the SCWA can use funds.

There was a long discussion pertaining to the L/R/T2 money and its uses. Krishna Kumar, SCWA, told the committee that under the current Master Agreement it is not possible to establish separate funds that guarantee monies will be locked in for that purpose.

Mr. Mullan said that for projects that were ready to go, in addition to increased funding, debt financing could be used. Al Bandur, city of Sonoma, said that he was uncomfortable with how the money for L/R/T2 projects is being tracked. He asked if it was possible to put the money into separate account rather than the O&M. Ms. Torliatt said that Petaluma needs to know how the money is being spent and she didn't understand why the money could not be held in a separate account.

Mike Martini, City of Santa Rosa, said that there were constraints under the current agreement that could be amended in the new agreement. He made motion to accept the recommendation of the subcommittee. Jake Mackenzie, City of Rohnert Park, seconded the motion.

After more discussion on what was and was not possible under the current agreement, a vote was taken with six of the eight contractors voting to approve the funding level and guidelines. Ms. Torliatt abstained, and Ms. Bertolero voted no as she wanted to take the proposal back to her Council. Ms. Bertolero explained that allocation based on previous use hurt the City of Cotati. Mr. Poole encouraged all of the committee members to affirm their support with their Boards and Councils.

Ms. Porter asked if there was any more discussion of the projects. Mr. DeGabriele said that Valley of the Moon withdrew their request for funds, and that Windsor and North Marin had projects that were proposed to be included in next years budget.

E. Report on Workshop 1 re: New Agreement Negotiation (Include Draft Vision Statement)

Mr. Nelson passed out a report on issues identified in Workshop No. 1, and a suggested agenda for the next workshop. He explained how the recap was organized. A discussion ensued concerning some of the comments made at the workshop. There was some discussion of whether an Integrated Water Resource Plan (IRWP) was necessary with the new agreement. Mr. Harry said that implementing a plan like this might be very hard and costly, and that guidelines were needed to develop it.

Mr. Nelson also asked the committee to review the draft vision statement at the back of the packet, and asked the contractors to take it back to their decision makers for review. Mr. Keller asked if there was a way for the public to be involved and really understand the contractor's ideas, and be able to give comments.

Mr. Nelson said that the workshop notices had been sent out to over 4000 people and that about 400 of them returned the note asking to stay on the list. He gave out the notice for the second workshop and asked the contractors to distribute it as they saw fit. He briefly went over the design of the workshop.

Mr. Martini asked how much would need to be committed to develop an IRWP, and Mr. Nelson answered a rough estimate is about \$1.5M. After some more discussion of the of the plan, Mr. Martini motioned to accept the agenda for the second workshop, and Joe Gaffney, City of Rohnert Park, seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

G. Year End Status Report of Contractor's Systems

Pam Jeane, SCWA, said that the Agency got through the summer okay, except for one night when power was lost. She said that the average monthly demand for water this summer was the same as it has been.

Ms. Porter said that the city of Santa Rosa hit its peak in June with 30.7 mgd. The city of Santa Rosa significantly lowered its water use this year.

Mr. Gaffney said that Rohnert Park relies on its municipal well field for most of its water, and uses the Agency as a back up. They are implementing a 3M dollar project to install residential water meters. They are also planning to rehabilitate their wells.

Steve Simmons, City of Petaluma, said that Petaluma is working on the CUWCC MOU. Approval to join is on the next council agenda. Petaluma's average local water production from the summer months was 1.61 mgd and the target was 1.60 mgd so they are right on. Peak use off the aqueduct occurred in July with a 13/33 mgd average for the month, which is about 1.5 mgd less than the MOU limit.

Mr. Harry said that Valley of the Moon Water District had an annual cap of 3200 acre-feet, and used 3.8 million gallons a day. Their annual MGD is 2.55.

Mr. Bandur said that in the city of Sonoma is working on increasing well production, and they are building a new tank.

North Marin Water District representative Mr. DeGabriele said that it was an eventful month of May for NMWD, as their treatment plant clarifier failed and North Marin received 12.55 mgd from SCWA. He said they are starting the design process for the new treatment plant around the first of the year. He said that NMWD got 2200 acre-feet of water from the Stafford treatment plant in FY 01, and 600 acre-feet has been produced from local supply this FY. North Marin hired a treatment plant operator to increase local production but pilot testing precluded the boost in production. NMWD signed on to the CUWCC and is working with the North Bay Watershed Association on a BMPS workshop. He said that there has been a restriction placed on turf for new development, and they are working on a recycled water project

for Stone Tree Golf Course irrigation. The NMWD Ammo Hill storage tank is approximately 50% completed.

George Roberts, Forestville Water District, said that everything is running well in Forestville.

Ms. Bertolero said that the Cotati is getting about 60% of their water from the SCWA and 40% from their local supply, and they hope to continue using as much local supply as possible. She said that as the MOU dictates, the city is committed to replacing polybeautyline pipes.

Mr. Mullan said that the town of Windsor has mandated recycled water use for non-residential irrigation. They are trying to prevent peaking off SCWA water and use more of their own supplies. He said that 20 homes have been sold which use recycled water for irrigation. For runoff prevention, greenbelts are prohibited as are overhead sprinklers.

Steve Phelps, Marin Municipal Water District said that the summer was uneventful for them, and he noted that Chinook salmon are returning to Lauginitas Creek.

H. Other Business

It was decided that the October WAC minutes would be approved at the December meeting.

Mr. Nelson handed out a draft report detailing the annual cost of water service to a typical single-family detached home customer.

I. Items for the Next Agenda

There were no items at this time.

J. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.

DISTRIBUTION:

Brenda Adelman, RRWPC
Bob Anderson, United Winegrowers
Joyce Arnold, North Marin Water District
Mike Ban, City of Petaluma
Al Bandur, City of Sonoma
Jane Bender, City of Santa Rosa
Paul Berlant, Town of Windsor
Toni Bertolero, City of Cotati
Jo Timmsen, Tell the Truth
Janice Cader-Thompson, City of Petaluma

Jake Mackenzie, City of Rohnert Park
Caroline Marker, City of Healdsburg
Mike Martini, City of Santa Rosa
Bill Massey, Forestville Water District
Matt Mullan, Town of Windsor
Gerry Nakano, West Yost
John Nelson, Water Resources Management
Joe Netter, City of Rohnert Park
Steve Phelps, Marin Municipal Water District
Dave Pinsky, City of Santa Rosa

Geoff Cartwright
Gail Chavez, City of Santa Rosa
Colin Close, City of Santa Rosa
Chris DeGabriele, North Marin Water District
Jim Downey, Penngrove/Kenwood Water
Noreen Evans, City of Santa Rosa
Miles Ferris, City of Santa Rosa
Jim Flugum, City of Healdsburg
Joe Gaffney, City of Rohnert Park
Jack Gibson, Marin Municipal Water District
Tom Hargis, City of Petaluma
Lee Harry, Valley of the Moon Water District
Pam Jeane, Sonoma County Water Agency
David Keller
Ruth Langridge
Rose Leppert
Robert Brownwood, California Dept. Health Services
Kiergan Pegg, Sonoma County Water Agency
Eve Perezselsky, Sonoma County Water Agency
Krishna Kumar, Sonoma County Water Agency

Randy Poole, Sonoma County Water Agency
Virginia Porter, City of Santa Rosa
Diane Reilly Torres
Syed Rizvi, North Marin Water District
George Roberts, Forestville Water District
Bill Robertson, City of Healdsburg
Dana Roxon, Marin Municipal Water District
Dale Shaddox, City of Cotati
Steve Simmons, City of Petaluma
Fred Stouder, City of Petaluma
Ron Theisen, Marin Municipal Water District
Pam Torliatt, City of Petaluma
Dell Tredinnick, City of Santa Rosa
John Wanger, City of Cloverdale
Renee Webber, Sonoma County Water Agency
Dave Willer, Valley of the Moon Water District
Michael Burgess, California Dept of Health Services
Diane Lesko, City of Santa Rosa
Pam Nicloai, Marin Municipal Water District